

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02099 181135Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 ACDA-05

DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /095 W

----- 000882

R 181109Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 167

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, AG, MO

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE SYG TO MEDIATE ON SAHARA

1. SINCE SAHARA PROBLEM FIRST AROSE, ARAB LEAGUE SYG MAHMUD RIAD HAS RESISTED ANY DIRECT ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS TO MEDIATE. WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY THAT AL SECRETARIAT HAD FOR MONTHS URGED HIM TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES FIRST WITH SPAIN AND MORE RECENTLY WITH ARAB DISPUTANTS. RIAD'S VIEW HAS BEEN, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE HE BELIEVED ANY EFFORTS ON HIS PART WOULD BE FORE-DOOMED TO FAILURE, HE SHOULD NOT RISK PRESTIGE OF HIS OFFICE. (THIS INCIDENTALLY WAS REASON HE GAVE TO HIS STAFF FOR STAYING OUT OF LEBANESE CONFLICT FOR SO MANY WEEKS.) RIAD'S MOST RECENT SPECIFIC REFUSAL TO BECOME SAHARA MEDIATOR WAS HIS TURN-DOWN OF OAU SYG'S SUGGESTION THAT THEY TRAVEL TO MAGHRIB TOGETHER (CAIRO 1456).

2. RIAD HAS NOW CHANGED HIS MIND AND WILL LEAVE FOR
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02099 181135Z

ALGIERS AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 18. ACCORDING TO LOCAL

PRESS, HE HAS INFORMED HASSAN, BOUMEDIENNE AND OULD DADA
THAT HE IS READY TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION THEY WISH TO
SETTLE DISPUTE AND HAS URGED THEM TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE,
NOT FIGHTING. ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT HAS SENT COPIES
OF THIS MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBER GOVERNMENTS URGING THEIR
COOPERATION IN SYG'S EFFORTS TO AVOID FIGHTING BETWEEN THEIR
MAGHRIB BROTHERS.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARBITRATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO02099
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760060-0940
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760241/aaaabjia.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB LEAGUE SYG TO MEDIATE ON SAHARA
TAGS: PFOR, XF, AG, MO, ARAB LEAGUE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006